

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6362

INFO AMCONGNE CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE

H/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE 1831

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1044

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (BARTLETT, DEWEY F.)

SUBJECT: CODEL BARTLETT VISIT TO KINSHASA

REF: (A) STATE 021945, (B) LISBON 0727

1. SENATOR BARTLETT AND LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT RUTH SPENT FEBRUARY 3 IN KINSHASA, WHERE THEY WERE BRIEFED BY THE AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS. THE SENATOR ALSO MET WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY, BISENGIMANA, AND WITH HOLDEN ROBERTO AND JONAS SAVIMBI.

2. SENATOR BARTLETT BRIEFED US ON HIS VISIT TO LUANDA AS REPORTED IN REF (B)--WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT THERE WERE REMORS IN LUANDA OF THE RECENT ARRIVAL OF SOME 1000 ALGERIAN MILITARY. SENATOR BARTLETT EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD SEEN NO EVIDENCE OF THE ALGERIANS.

3. THE SENATOR'S MEETING WITH BISENGIMANA LASTED AN HOUR AND A HALF AND WENT QUITE WELL. BARTLETT EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN THE DECEMBER 19 SENATE VOTE CUTTING OFF AID TO ANGOLA AND BELIEVED THAT THE DECSION HAD BEEN
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TAKEN HASTILY WITHOUT EITHER PROPER DEBATE OR KNOWLEDGE OF

THE FACTS, HE SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO GATHER RELEVANT INFORMATION CONCERNING ANGOLA AND SURROUNDING AFRICAN NATIONS SO THAT HE COULD EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THE ON-GOING DEBATE IN CONGRESS. THE SENATOR ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS, THE GIST OF WHICH WAS TO ELICIT ZAIRE'S REACTION TO THE SENATE CUT-OFF. BISENGIMANA'S BASIC REPLY WAS THAT ZAIRE AND OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WERE EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED AND VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CNSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACTION NOT ONLY ON THE GROUND IN ANGOLA BUT ALSO ON THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY SECURITY OF ZAIRE AND ZAMBIA. BISENGIMANA CONCLUDED WITH A STRONG PITCH FOR CONTINUED AND INCREASED US ASSISTANCE FOR BOTH ZAIRE AND FNLA/UNITA. SENATOR BARTLETT SAID HE WOULD DO HIS BEST, BUT COULD OBVIOUSLY MAKE NO PROMISES AS TO THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME IN CONGRESS.

4. CONVERSATION WITH HOLDEN AND SAVIMBI REPORTED SEPTEL.
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